

REMARKS

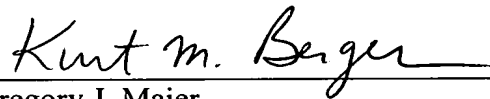
Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 15-39 are currently pending. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 13 and 15 have been amended by the present Preliminary Amendment. The changes to the claims was supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

Accordingly, an examination of Claims 1-13 and 15-39 is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599  
Kurt M. Berger, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 51,461

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)

I:\ATTY\KMB\246683US-PR.DOC